

BOARD DECISIONS MUST BE RESPECTED BY BOTH SIDES

**ARMY CANVASSED
FOR RAILROAD MEN**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Oct. 18. — A survey of all the men in the eighth Army Corps area who have had experience in the operation and construction of railroads was made today by officers, following orders received by Maj. Gen. John L. Hines, area commander.

Officers take the survey to learn that if the rail strike becomes effective the army might

**Freight Rate Reductions
May Be Announced
In Few Days.**

**CABINET URGES
SUPPORT OF LAW**

**Appeal to Public Opinion
May Follow Chicago**

called upon to help operate the roads.

SAVES RAILROADS® AND UNIONS WILL YIELD TO HARDING

Official Is Confident Conference Will Avert Strike.

In his endeavor to avert the impending national railroad strike, President Harding has adopted a policy providing for the following two lines of procedure:

1. To support the Railroad Labor Board with a view to compelling respect for its decisions by both the employes and employers.
2. To bring about a lowering of transportation rates to offset reductions in wages decreed by the board.

It was in conformity with this policy that the Labor Board has summoned the chiefs of the railway brotherhoods to

CHICAGO, Oct. 18.—Through the aid of the Railroad Labor Board President Harding is prepared to take steps which, according to unquestionable authority, he hopes will avert the threatened nationwide railroad strike.

The leaders of the big five brotherhoods, who have issued a strike call to the train service organizations to take effect October 30, will be given the Executive viewpoint on Thursday, according to this authority.

The board will not act until the limited powers granted by the transportation act, it was stated.

ference on the situation produced by their vote to strike as a protest against the July wage reduction.

Relies on Public Opinion.

This will be an informal conference, according to the administration viewpoint, which will endeavor to effect a cancellation of the strike call through persuasion of the union leaders. If the representatives of the brotherhoods cannot be induced to withdraw the strike order from the Railroad Board, it is here, will cite the unions formally, to show cause for flouting the wage reduction decision made in accordance with the provisions of the Esch-Cummins act.

Under the law the board has no power to enforce its decisions, nor are its decisions binding upon each

The meeting with the union leaders will be "informal," the speaker will be acting more as personal representative than as an official of the labor party.

Pressure on Rail Executives. Steps will also be taken, it was stated, which are expected to lead railroad executives to withdraw the pending application for a 10 per cent additional wage cut.

In view of the circumstances there were several reasons to believe that either the railroad unions nor the executives will act against the president's wishes," it was stated.

"It is an official able to speak with the authority of the president."

The railroad board will meet with the representatives of the big city brotherhoods Thursday. The

He conceives that this test will demonstrate whether the labor union is capable of effect compliance with its decisions, whether its plan for preventing rail-road strikes embodied in the transportation act is altogether futile.

Approves Citing of Penn. R. R.

Mr. Harding believes that the Labor Board should cite any individual or organization ignoring its decisions. He approves the recent action of the board in citing the Pennsylvania Railroad to show cause for its refusal to comply with a decision on working rules involving the removal of the road to recognize certain independent and organized employees. He regards the summons to the brotherhood chiefs as in the same category.

which has a large majority in both houses of Congress.

It can be said with almost complete certainty when the disposition with the representatives of the men is concluded that neither the unions nor the railroads will desire to fly in the face of his phrase.

It was stated that legislation is possible that might abolish the railroad board altogether and place more powers with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Important Bill at Stake.

It was also said that the railroads, with the \$500,000,000 refunding bill pending, could be very reasonably expected to bow to the president's wishes.

The recent statement of the public

The President's attitude is unanimously supported by the members of the Cabinet which met yesterday and discussed the strike situation only informally and briefly. The question was deemed one that is being dealt with by the authorities constituted by the transportation act.

The President takes the position that there is no occasion for undue excitement over a situation which was foreseen as a possible, if not probable, contingency by Congress when it passed the Eech-Cummings bill and which it is dealing with in the manner described by that law.

Asks Fair Trial of Law.

If the law fails to prevent strikes in the manner contemplated it will

members of the railroad board, saying that the railroads withdrew from the conference on the ground of a further 10 per cent wage cut and the translation of the \$400,000 wage cut of July 1 into reduced freight rates was declared to be more than the mere opinion of the railroad board. The speakers were Chairman R. M. Barton, Vice Chairman Ben Hooper, and G. W. Hangar, the three public members of the Railroad Board, representing today's conference to session with the six other members of the board to outline the plan of the conference with the brotherhood leaders Thursday.

Will Meet Union Chiefs.

On that day they will meet with J. S. Stone, grand chief of the iron and steel workers' union.

The firemen and engineers; L. Sheppard, president of the Order Railway Conductors; W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and T. C. Sheppard, president of the Switchmen's Union.

The action of the board in calling the brotherhood chiefs here will in no way stop the shoprats from proceeding with their strike, he said. It was stated President B. M. Jewell.

"We have received no word from the board that we are included in this conference," he said. "We will not be there."

He said he would like to represent each every union in our organization will thresh out its own problems and then meet in a general conference for a final decision.

The railroad wage reduction were being passed on to the consumer.

The question of rate decreases is being discussed by the Interstate Commerce Commission which is in touch with the responsible leaders among the railroad owners. A reduction may materialize either as a more or less voluntary proposal by the railroads or as a measure imposed on the roads by the government.

Negotiations, inspired by the President, are in progress and administration officials are confident that it will be possible to announce a wage reduction within the next few days.

**ATTEMPT TO SHOOT
SCHEIDEMANN EMBASSY**

SCHIEDMANN FAILS

BERLIN, Oct. 15.—An unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Philip Scheidemann, leader of the German majority Socialists, was made today during a meeting at Ludersseig.

The assassin fired at the former provisional chancellor, who escaped without injury.